

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /176 W
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R 211515Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TOFRUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6193

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0677

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN ENRG ELAB PINT PFOR TD XL

SUBJECT: PM PARTY TO STUDY TRINIDAD-CARICOM RELATIONS

REF: POS 579 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER WCVLIAMS RECENTZH SUBMITTED A FAR-REACHING MEMORANDUM OCUDOMESTIC AND RQOIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF TRINIDAD'S PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT TO THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT (PNM) FOR STUDY. THE MEMORANDUM EMPHASIZES TWO ISSUES--INTRA-REGIONAL MIGRATION AND ENERGY-RELATED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS-- WHICH TRINIDAD AND THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY MUST FACE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF TRINIDAD'S ENERGY RESOURCES, AND MAY BE RELATED TO THE FORTHCOMING CARICOM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING. THE MEMO IS ALSO EVIDENCE OF WILLIAMS' ALMOST
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TOTAL CONCENTRATION UPON THE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF THE

EXPLOITATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRINIDAD'S ENERGY RESEGMES, TO THE EXCLUSION OF A NUMBER OF OTHER IMPORTANT DOMESTIC ISSUES. END SUMMARP.

1. PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS HAS SUBMITTED A DETAILED STUDY MEMORANDUM TO THE RULING PEOPLE'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT (PNM), CITING THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF TRINIDAD'S PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. THE STUDY HIGHLIGHTS THESE PROBLEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RECENTLY-FORMED CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, REFERRING PARTICULARLY TO THE SPECIAL SITUATION POSED BY INTRA-REGIONAL MIGRATION AND THE RECENT ECONOMIC INTEGRATION MOVEMENT. ENERGY-RELATED BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS HAVE ALREADY LED TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET (CARICOM), WHILE THE SMALL ISLAND STATES (MEMBERS OF CARICOM'S PREDECESSOR CARIFTA) HAVE REPORTEDLY THREATENED NOT TO ACCEDE TO THE COMMUNITY TREATY ON MAY 1 UNLESS TRINIDAD GRANTS THEM CONCESSIONARY PETROLEUM PRICES.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEMORANDUM REFERS TO MIGRATION AS THE "CRUCIAL ISSUE," CITING THE PROBABLE NEED FOR A LARGE WORK FORCE DURING THE INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, AND THE DISLOCATIONS IN TRINIDAD'S LABOR FORCE (NOW PREDOMINANTLY AGRICULTURAL) LIKELY TO RESULT. IT ALSO DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE CHANGES IN INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC PATTERNS WHICH WILL OCCUR AS INDUSTRIES ARE LOCATED IN SOUTHERN TRINIDAD, WELL AWAY FROM THE POPULOUS AREA SURROUNDING PORT OF SPAIN. WILLIAMS ESTIMATED THAT 10,000 NEW JOBS WILL BE CREATED IN THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE, AND EMPHASIZED THAT VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING WILL BE NECESSARY TO TRAIN WORKERS BOTH DURING THIS PHASE, AND THEN TO WORK IN THE BASIC NATURAL GAS-RELATED INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS OTHER SPIN-OFF INDUSTRIES.

3. OTHER ISSUES OF MEMORANDUM REQUESTS THE PARTY TO STUDY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S POSITION

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IN RESPECT TO "CURRENT PROPOSALS FOR FLOATING THE PRICE OF GOLD;" THE ECONOMIC AND POPULATION DISLOCATION EFFECTS OF EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SHIPPING OPERATIONS; THE EFFECTS ON TOBAGO OF TRINIDAD'S INDUSTRIALIZATION; AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EMERGENCE OF NEW CENTERS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: THE EXISTENCE OF THIS MEMORANDUM WAS PUBLICIZED

BY THE SAME REPORTER WHO RECENTLY WAS GRANTED A HIGHLY UNUSUAL INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER (REFTEL), AND HAS EVERY INDICATION OF BEING A GOTT-INTENDED AND DIRECTED "LEAK". THE STORY IS AMPLE EVIDENCE OF THE DEPTH OF GOTT CONCERN AND THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER IS CONSIDERING THE LONG RANGE CONSEQUENCES OF TRINIDAD'S FORTHCOMING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE EMPHASIS PD RELATIONS WITH THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY MAY WELL PRESAGE A GOTT PRESENTATION ON ENERGY AND MIGRATION MATTERS AT THE FORTHCOMING CARIBBEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE, NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 15, IN CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA.

5. INTRA-REGIONAL MIGRATION, OF COURSE, WAS ONE OF THE ISSUES ON WHICH THE FEDERATION OF THE WEST INDIES FLOUNDERED, AND LITTLE MENTION IS MADE OF IT IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY TREATY. THE SINGLE-MINDEDNESS WITH WHICH WILLIAMS IS HANDLING ALL ASPECTS OF THE PLANNED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT--COUPLED WITH HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING, NEGOTIATING, AND STUDYING LONG-RANGE CONSEQUENCES--IS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE DISINCLINATION TO GOVERN WHICH HE EXHIBITED DURING THE PAST YEAR, CULMINATING IN HIS SEPTEMBER 28 RESIGNATION ANNOUNCEMENT. HE NOW APPEARS A MAN WITH A DEFINITE MISSION, A MAN UNLIKELY TO TURN LOOSE OF THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE SHORT RUN.
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